

The monthly A*C*E

since 1982

Sept 2003

WJDI 1620 KHZ

MR. STEVE ROGOVICH,

DATE RECEIVED: JAN 21 1989
TIME: 10:57 PM - 06:05
LOCATION: VIRGINIA BEACH, VA
DISTANCE FROM TX: 375 MILES
RECEIVER USED: SONY ICF 2010

THIS LETTER WILL VERIFY THE RECEPTION OF "PIRATE" RADIO STATION W J D I OPERATING ON 1620 KILOHERTZ WITH AN OUTPUT POWER OF 1000 "CLEAR" WATTS. RADIO STATION W J D I AT THE TIME YOU RECEIVED OUR SIGNAL WAS ON THE AIR FOR EQUIPMENT TESTING PURPOSES. DURING THE MONTH OF JAN 1989 WE HAVE BEEN TESTING OUR NORTH / SOUTH DIRECTIONAL ANTENNA SYSTEM. THIS ANTENNA HAS VERY DIRECTIONAL PROPERTIES TO THE NORTH AND SOUTH AND HAS GIVEN US ALMOST 1000 MILES OF COVERAGE.

WE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE OUR TRANSMITTER LOCATION BUT FOR OBVIOUS REASONS WE KNOW IT WOULD CAUSE THE DENISE OF W J D I AND MANY MONTHS OF WORK BUT, THE GENERAL LOCATION IS 100 MILES NORTH OF NEW YORK CITY. THE TRANSMITTER WAS DESIGNED AND BUILT BY MYSELF FOR THE STATION AND WILL OPERATE ANY FREQUENCY FROM 1400 KILOHERTZ TO 32 MEGAHERTZ. THE MAIN PURPOSE OF W J D I IS TO ADD SOME NEW LIFE TO THE BROADCAST BAND DX HOBBY AND TO GIVE THE GENERAL SHORT WAVE LISTENER A UNCOMMON STATION TO "LOG" IN HIS BOOK. TODAY I HAVE NOTED MANY "PIRATE" BCB STATIONS BUT, ONLY A FEW OF US RUN MORE THAN A FEW WATTS. ENCLOSED IS A PHOTO OF OUR "TRANSMITTER AND STUDIO OF W J D I". IT HAS BEEN A PLEASURE ANSWERING YOUR LETTER AND I HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU AGAIN.

Steve CHIEF ENGINEER

TECHNICAL TRANSMITTER AND ANTENNA SYSTEM INFORMATION

FREQUENCY:	1620 KILOHERTZ
POWER OUTPUT:	1000 WATTS NOM. 1500 MAX
ANTENNA:	290' SLOPING "T" FED WITH RG 214 50 OHM COAX
GROUND RADIALS:	4500' OF RADIALS. 45 RADIALS OF #16 COPPER 100' EACH
RF AMPLIFIER:	A SINGLE 4-1000 TETRODE
MODULATORS:	A PAIR OF 610 TRIODES CLASS "B"
PLATE VOLTAGE:	4000 VDC ON RF FINAL, 3000 VDC ON 610 MODULATORS
PLATE CURRENT:	375 MILLS ON 4-1000 300 PEAR ON MODULATORS
SCREEN VOLTAGE:	500 VDC FROM FIXED SUPPLY
SCREEN CURRENT:	150 MILLS TYP
GRID DRIVE:	20 WATTS NOM FOR 35 TO 40 MILLS GRID CURRENT.
POWER SUPPLY:	5000 VDC 500 MA AND 4000 VDC @ 1 AMP
AUDIO DRIVER:	DYNAKIT 70 AMP (50 WATTS NOM.)
RF DRIVER:	6L6 CRYSTAL WITH AN 807 RF OUTPUT.

DIALOGS September, 2003

Lee Reynolds, 10 Block Avenue #55, Claremont, NH 03743

Email: Dialogs@adelphia.net

AIM: KD1SQ / ICQ: 4139354 / Yahoo IM: KD1SQ

(Next deadline for submissions: September 18th, 2003)

LATE LOGS

Nada late this time around!

FROM ACROSS THE POND

Nobody reported hearing anything from across the big pond this month but, oddly, someone temporarily located on the other side of it sent us an extensive report on the US-based stations that he heard. Take a look below under "Something Different"...

NORTH/SOUTH AMERICAN LOGGINGS

Big Thunder Radio (bighunderradio@hotmail.com)

- 08/10/03, 0249-0256+, 6950U - mx - Country Joe MacDonald, Louis Armstrong, Bobby Pickett. Mention of western Wyoming. (JM-WA Good)
- 08/15/03, 0148-0157*, 6950U - mx - Hendrix. Sudden signoff due to technical problems. (JS-NE Fair)

Captain Fred's World Cruise (amph@california.com)

- 08/02/03, 0535-0654*, 6925U - Our DJ is Captain Fred with program number 41. (WH-IL 144)(JS-NE Good)
- 08/03/03, 0735, 6925U - mx - a variety. Program #42. KIPM relay? (WH-IL 154)

Captain Morgan (FRN)

- 07/29/03, 0157, 6950A - mx - Hendrix? "Twilight Zone" theme. "Rock'n'Roll Part Two"? (AF Poor)
- 07/30/03, 0202-0229+, 6950A - mx - "Walking On The Sun". (JS-NE Poor)
- 08/08/03, 0233-0241+, 6950A - mx - Soul, Hendrix. Theme for "the Twilight Zone" used as a musical bridge. (JS-NE Poor)

Grasscutter Radio (FRN)

- 07/26/03, 0037+, 13913U - very poor copy. (Pse QSL JS-NE Poor)
- 07/26/03, 2115-2146+, 13910U - mx - "Baby, Bye Bye" and "Midnight Special". (Pse QSL JS-NE Poor)
- 07/29/03, 0019, 6925U - mx - unrecognized. (AF Poor)
- 08/06/03, 0003, 6925A - mx - Robin Trower. (AF Fair)
- 08/07/03, 0138-0141, 6925U - mx - "For Your Love", "That Smell". (AF Fair) (Pse QSL JS-NE Poor)
- 08/08/03, 0120-0200+, 6925U - mx - The Yardbirds, Iron Butterfly. "Yeah Maanannnn". (CL-MA 232)
- 08/15/03, 2312-2351, 6925U - mx - Blondie. (Pse QSL JS-NE Good)
- 08/17/03, 0159-0328, 6950U - mx - Iron Butterfly, Van Halen. Mention of plans to start issuing QSLs. (AF Poor) (Pse QSL JS-NE Good)(WS-TN Good)

Iron Man Radio (Belfast)

- 08/13/03, 0224-0242+, 6953A - mx - "I Turn My Back On You", "Ball And Chain". (JS-NE Poor)

KDAY/K-DAZE (kday6955@yahoo.com)

- 08/03/03, 0055-0130*, 6925U - Ren and Stimpy's "King of the Airwaves" episode. (JS-NE Good)
- 08/03/03, 0107-0130, 6935U - a show in which Ren and Stimpy win a Low Power Radio Station! (GM-CT 333)

KIPM (Elkhorn)

- 08/02/03, 0041-0130*, 6950U - "War Dogs", female cover of "Comfortably Numb". (AF Fair)(GM-CT 434)
- 08/02/03, 0211-0300+, 6950U - "The Evil Show". (CL-MA 353)(LR-NH Good)(WH-IL 244)(RE-CA Good)
- 08/02/03, 0317-0436, 6925U - Alan's Talking Mushrooms. (WH-IL 244)(RE-CA Good)
- 08/02/03, 0437-0537, 6925U - "The Twin Poles Of Eternity". (WH-IL 134)
- 08/03/03, 0145-0239*, 6950U - "Talking Mushrooms". Al also mentions his homepage at <http://homepage.mac.com/kipm>. (GM-CT 434)(RE-CA Good)
- 08/03/03, 0240-0400+, 6950U - "The Evil Show". (GM-CT 434)(RE-CA Good)
- 08/03/03, 0417-0445+, 6925U - "He Who Evolved". (CL-MA 343)
- 08/03/03, 0525-0628, 6925U - a show about traffic. (WH-IL 134)
- 08/03/03, 0630, 6925U - a program about operations and sailing. Faded out. (WH-IL 122)
- 08/03/03, 1000-1100, 6925U - Mister Maxwell visits the souk in Marrakech, other subjects included spleen removal, ballet training, Pink Floyd covers and encouraging correspondence from his listeners. (BF-PA)
- 08/03/03, 1113-1212, 6925U - a repeat of the 1000 show. (BF-PA)

KRMA (Elkhorn, perhaps?)

- 08/06/03, 0055+, 6950U - gentle guitar music into an anti Rodent Revolution commentary. (JS-NE Poor)

KROW (Elkhorn)

- 08/15/03, 0210-0240*, 6950U - mx - Queensryche. IS from the movie "The Crow". (JS-NE Good)

Pigmeat Radio International (Belfast)

- 07/21/03, 0342, 6950A - mx - Latino. (WS-TN Fair)
- 07/21/03, 0413-0430+, 6950A - mx - Patti Smith. (JS-NE Poor)

Purple Nucleus Of Creation (Elkhorn)

- 08/02/03, *0654-0730*, 6925U - mx - Aethereal. The "Technicolor show". (WH-IL) (JS-NE Good)

Ragnar Radio (ragnarradio@yahoo.com)

- 08/17/03, 0104-0149+, 6925U - mx - Bob Seeger, Cheech & Chong. (JS-NE Poor)
- 08/17/03, 0210-0220, 6925U - mx - C&W, Banjo. ID over "Breaking The Law" bg mx. (JS-NE Poor)
- 08/17/03, 1203-1229+, 6955U - mx - Reggae, Bob Seeger. IS into station ID. "This is Ragnar Radio broadcasting for freedom!" (JS-NE Fair)

Shadow Radio (the_shadow6950@hotmail.com)

- 07/21/03, 0221+, 6925U - mx - The Ramones. (JS-NE Fair)

Sunshine Radio (Unknown)

- 07/23/03, 0053, 6925U - mx - Bee Gees. (AF Fair)
- 07/23/03, 0130-0255+, 6925U - mx - oldies, J. Geils. The Southern YL acknowledges postings on the FRN. (CL-MA 343) (Pse QSL JS-NE Fair)
- 08/04/03, 0030-0047, 6926U - mx - Disco, Kenny Rogers. (WS-TN Fair)

- 08/11/03, 0049-0216+, 6925U – mx – “The Lion Sleeps Tonight”, “It Hurts to be in Love”. (AF Good)(WS-TN Fair) (Pse QSL JS-NE Fair)

Sycko Radio (None)

- 07/21/03, 0335, 6956U – mx – Jefferson Airplane. (WS-TN Fair)

The Voice Of The Tiki (Elkhorn)

- 08/03/03, 0920-0957, 6925U – Mudda Maxwell spins the hot Hawaiian wax with island songs, U2 done Hawaiian-style, Yoga on the beach and a request for \$1 with reports. (BF-PA)

Theremin Radio (Elkhorn)

- 08/02/03, 2358-0018*, 6950U – Cherokee Jack with music from They Might Be Giants, Dick Hyman and Prelude. (JS-NE Good)

Undercover Radio (undercoverradio@mail.com)

- 07/22/03, 0145-0154*, 6955U – Doctor Benway treats us to another of his informative talks and asks us to be ready for a message. (CL-MA 343)(JS-NE Poor)
- 08/03/03, 0607+, 6925U – performances from Laurie Anderson and readings from the works of the Good William Burroughs by Doctor Benway. (JS-NE Good)
- 08/03/03, 0838-0919, 6925U – Burroughs and Anderson live at a 1978 NOVA convention. (BF-PA)

Voodoo Radio (vudu1@hotmail.com)

- 07/23/03, 0155+, 6950L – mx – Allman Brothers. A plea that Al Fansome turn away from the Commander Bunny side of the Force. (JS-NE Fair)
- 07/28/03, 0216-0233, 6950U – almost uncopyable, ment. Listener in Alberta. - QRM. (AF Poor)(WS-TN Poor)
- 08/10/03, 0248-0332*, 6955U – mx – old Jazz numbers. OM IDs. (CL-MA 131)
- 08/17/03, 0544+, 6990L – mx – Heavy Metal. (JS-NE Good)

WAIR (Elkhorn)

- 08/03/03, *0019-0055*, 6950U – mx – covers of Neil Young songs. Ravi Brownyard signing off. (GM-CT 222)(JS-NE Good)

WDDR (Elkhorn)

- 08/02/03, 0730+, 6925U – a new station with a program titled “Le Show”. Relay of an FM Pirate? (JS-NE Good)

WHYP (whyp6925@yahoo.com)

- 08/14/03, 0139-0253+, 6925A – mx – “Solar Sex Panel”, “Now Everybody’s Me”. Fifth anniversary all-request special. Test broadcast. (JS-NE Good)(AF Good)
- 08/16/03, 0113-0239*, 6925L – mx – “Hey Ho, Let’s Go!”, “In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida”. All request show. Apologies for being on LNB due to technical problems. QSO with Voodoo Radio followed. (AF Good)(JS-NE Good)

WMPR (FRN)

- 08/07/03, 2341-0025+, 6925A – mx – “Love and Pain”. (AF Good)(JS-NE Good)
- 08/14/03, 0123-0130+, 6955A – mx – “Just Can’t Get Enough”. (AF Good)(JS-NE Fair)

TENTATIVE/UNIDENTIFIED

UND

- 07/27/03, 0240-0308*, 6950L – mx – “Oh Susanna” and other such musical gems as performed by The Chipmunks. (CL-MA 143)(WS-TN Good)
- 08/06/03, 0100-0137, 6925A – mx – New Age-ish. Very atmospheric. (JS-NE Fair)

- 08/06/03, 0220-0240, 6950U – Southern comedy routine with takes on Mississippi football. Sudden dropout during “The 10 Rules of Good Citizenship”. (JS-NE Fair)
- 08/07/03, 0022, 6925U – mx – snippets of “Der Kommisar”. Technical problems. (AF Fair)
- 08/09/03, 0215-0245+, 6925U – mx – Mountain, BS&T, other ‘69-’70 oldies. (CL-MA 232)
- 08/10/03, 0041, 6950U – mx – children “Found a Peanut”. Possibly same one as heard on 07/27/03. (AF Fair)
- 08/10/03, 0137, 6950U – a black gentleman performing R-rated comedy. (AF Fair)
- 08/12/03, 0225+, 6925U – mx – Neil Diamond, unid song. Good audio. (Pse QSL JS-NE Fair)
- 08/13/03, 0036-0053*, 6925U – mx – “Rock Around The Clock”, “At The Hop”. (Pse QSL JS-NE)
- 08/13/03, 0206-0242, 6925U – mx – C&W, Al Yankovic parodies. Possible ID @ 0217. Talking at 0219. (JM-WA Poor)(Pse QSL JS-NE Poor)
- 08/13/03, 0230-0238, 6953U – mx – Janis Joplin. “..radio..” heard at 0234. (JM-WA Poor)
- 08/14/03, 0127-0150+, 6950U – mx – “Sky Pilot”, “What A Wonderful World”. (Pse QSL JS-NE)
- 08/14/03, 2127-2130, 6950U – mx – “Putting On The Ritz” and off... (Pse QSL JS-NE Good)
- 08/15/03, 0408, 6950U – mx – “Maniac”. (AF Poor)
- 08/18/03, 0110-0300+, 6950U – a story about a child named “Joseph” with crippled legs who walked on his hands, one about a Southern gentleman who returned from a trip to find that his dog had died and a story about “Jack” seeking his fortune. Off with Polka mx. Woody suggests the Storyteller’s Convention in Jonesboro, TN as a possible source of the tales. (AF Fair)(WS-TN Good)

Something Different...

What follows is a more-or-less direct copy of the email that I received. I figured I’d mess with it as little as possible. I think that the Ops themselves would be very interested in learning just how far their signals actually do make it!

The only thing that made the curly hairs on the back of my neck stand on end was when George mentioned Mount Kisco...George, the effort is much appreciated, just don’t mention the M-K words again! lr

Hi Lee,

Although I’m not a member of the ACE, I e-mailed JTA to ask if he thought my log report from Hungary would be of interest to the readers. He thought they should be included in ACE DiaLogs, so I’m attaching the report below. I was hoping to generate more interest among the Euro DXers to try for US pirates. To my knowledge, there are no equivalent dedicated pirate DXers along the lines of Andrew Yoder or Dave Valko in Europe, who try for transatlantic pirates the way they do. Also, I thought the US operators would be pleased to hear that their 80 or 100 watt transmitters could be heard so far inland across the Atlantic.

Thanks,

George

I’m back from a 3-week vacation in Pécs, Hungary, and would like to share my pirate loggings and some observations in the hope that more Euro DXers will try to DX USA pirates.

On prior trips to Hungary I was able to hear only 2 US pirates: WREC with about 100 watts SSB, and Radio Metallica Worldwide in AM mode, power unknown. As I’ve had good success with hearing UK, Dutch, and German pirates from my home in Mount

Kisco, New York (some with as low as 18 watts AM power), I wanted to see what results could be obtained while I was in Central Europe. Much to my surprise, I was able to log 8 different USA stations on 10 days, despite the fact that Pécs is about 900 miles (1,450 km) inland from the Atlantic Ocean, and the approximate distance from Pécs to Washington, DC is about 4,600 miles (7,400 km)!

My temporary DX shack was fairly modest. My primary receiver was a Sony ICF-2010 modified with Kiwa narrow and wide filters. For antennas, I had a 30 meter long dipole fed with coax, a 40 meter random wire coupled to a homebrewed noise-reducing matching transformer fed with coax, and a Sony AN-LP1 active loop antenna. RF chokes were applied to all antenna feedlines in the shack, and were connected to an Alpha Delta coax switch. In addition, a Kiwa BCB filter and MFJ-956 passive preselector were used to minimize RF overloading of the 2010.

My usual listening time was 0230-0330 UTC (0430-0530 local time). Before anyone thinks I'm that dedicated a DXer to be waking at dawn while on vacation, the dogs at the neighboring houses all barked at that hour when a neighbor left for work in the morning. Listening at dawn was one key to my success. In addition to some dawn enhancement of propagation, there were relatively low noise levels, probably aided by the lack of any rain or thunderstorms in Europe. Another contributing factor was the high elevation of my location, overlooking the entire city of Pécs, with a clear view to the western horizon.

I hope this report will encourage more European DXers to try for US pirates. In my case even with an inland location, transatlantic pirate reception was possible on a consistent basis at dawn, from the comfort of my vacation home. I suggest you post your logs to the A.C.E. Loggings Message Board at the Free Radio Network website: www.frn.net in addition to the usual European pirate sites. You will likely get positive feedback from the many pirate operators who frequent this message board.

I'd appreciate a QSL from those operators that I have no way of contacting. Please QSL to George Maroti, P.O. Box 452, Mount Kisco, NY 10549. Thanks!

Log Summary:

6955U, Captain Ron Shortwave, June 29, 2003, 0336-0402*, SINPO 23232 (100 watts)

6955AM, UNID, July 4, 2003, 0250-0335, 23322

6950U, Grasscutter Radio, July 5, 2003, 0314-0343, 23332 (80 watts)

6950U, Undercover Radio, July 6, 2003, 0407-0409, 14321 (100 watts)

6955.1AM, WMPR, July 8, 2003, 0136-0212*, 23332

6950U, Grasscutter Radio, July 10, 2003, 0252-0317, 24432

6950U, Sunshine Radio, July 12, 2003, 0332-0341, 14431

6925AM, WHYP, July 13, 2003, 0102-0120, 13331

6925AM, WHYP, July 14, 2003, 0222-0242, 23432

6955U, Sunshine Radio, July 14, 2003, 0244-0313, 22432

6949.9AM, Captain Morgan, July 15, 2003, 0120-0145*, 23432

6955.1AM, WMPR, July 15, 2003, 0301-0310, 13331

Logs in Detail:

CAPTAIN RON SHORTWAVE, 6955 USB, June 29, 0336-0402*, Heard California Uber Alles by the DK's, greetings to L Cee. Concluded with "wrapping up another live half-assed broadcast." SINPO 23232. (Maroti-HU)

UNIDENTIFIED, 6955 USB, July 4, 0250-0335, Songs heard were Ballroom Blitz, Hocus Pocus, My Sharona (twice in a row), Long Cool Woman in a Black Dress, Heartbreaker, Magic Man. No voice or speech heard, and there were some long breaks between songs. SINPO 23322 Probably best signal of all the pirates. (Maroti-HU)

GRASSCUTTER RADIO, 6950 USB, July 5, 0304-0343, I Can See For Miles, Magic Bus, Who are You, Brown eyed girl, and possibly two more Van Morrison songs ("open up the window and let me breath"?). IDs at 0304 (yeah, yeah, Grasscutter Radio, etc) 0342 Greetings to FRN loggers L. Cee, G.W. Ferguson, Red October 90) Song dedication to his mother, wife, sister in law. Microphone audio nice and clear, and frequency was just about spot on, as the SSB on the 2010 sounded natural. SINPO 23332 (Maroti-HU)

UNDERCOVER RADIO, 6950 USB, July 6, 0407-0409, Sounded like a KIPM narrative at first. At 0407 heard, "now it is time to execute your plan. It is time for Commander Bunny....Al Fansome...Commander Bunny." At 0409 "Don't let them see us, don't tell them what we are doing". SINPO 14321 (Maroti-HU)

WMPR 6955.1 AM, Jul 8, 0136-0212*. Mostly techno music, with W-M-P-R IDs after almost every song. At 0145, heard either "number 3, number 3" or "eleven 3, eleven 3". At 0205 a portion of the Cure's "Jumping Someone Else's train". At 0212, an echo effect "thank you", then xmtr went off. SINPO 23332 (Maroti-HU)

GRASSCUTTER RADIO, 6950 USB, Jul 10, 0252-0334, Woke up to hear some weird music, sounded like early Pink Floyd, but turned out to be the long version of "In A Godda Da Vida". ID at 0258, then some bluesy vocals. 0307 "Freeze Frame". 0311 YL vocals, possibly Pat Benatar? Second time heard here in Hungary, but the first reception was better. SINPO 24432 (Maroti-HU)

SUNSHINE RADIO, 6950 USB, July 12, 0332-0341, Could only recognize Blondie's "Tide is High" at 0339, followed by an ID by a YL at 0341, recognized the voice as that of Sunshine's. If I had only been listening 30 minutes earlier, this would have been a much better signal. SINPO 14431 (Maroti-HU)

WHYP (tentative) 6925 AM, July 13, 0102-0120, Detected a carrier at 0102 UTC, QRM on USB, fishermen on LSB. Talk by OM at 0111, vocals at 0114. Talk again at 0117, music at 0120. That's all I have, I couldn't recognize anything, unfortunately. According to FRN, WHYP was on the air at this time. SINPO 13331 (Maroti-HU)

WHYP (pres), 6925 AM, July 14, 0222-0242, No ID heard, but a song at 0223 with OM vocals sounded like it was by Golden Earring. FRN logs had WHYP at this time. SINPO 23432 (Maroti-HU)

SUNSHINE RADIO, 6955 USB, July 14, 0248-0313, This would have been much better if not for the het caused by Peru on 6956v. Played the Who: Magic Bus, Pinball Wizard, Squeezebox, Behind Blue Eyes, Who are You. Eagles' Hotel California. Two IDs heard. SINPO 22432 (Maroti-HU)

CAPTAIN MORGAN, 6949.9 AM, July 15, 0130-0145*, Heard as early as 0120, but too much QRM from SP fishermen on LSB, and ute on USB. At 0130 I heard about 10 songs, all about 1 minute in length as follows: Wind Cries Mary, Hey Joe, Brown-Eyed Girl, What a Night, Wind Cries Mary, Hey Joe, Blues song, Twilight zone theme song. Apparently went off at 0145 UTC. SINPO 23432 (Maroti-HU)

WMPR, 6955.1 AM, July 15, 0301-0310, Techno music, ID at 0307. SINPO 13331 (Maroti-HU)

CONTRIBUTORS/PLEASE QSL

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Bill Finn, 2905 Tyson Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19149 (BF-PA)
William Hassig, 102 North Russell Street, Mt. Prospect, IL 60056-2443 (WH-IL)
Al "Kouneli" Fansome (AF)
Chris Lobdell, Box 146, Stoneham, MA 02180 (CL-MA)
Greg Majewski, 1176 Route 163, Oakdale, CT 06370 (GM-CT)
John Morris, Whidbey Island, WA (JM-WA)
Lee Reynolds, 10 Block Avenue #55, Claremont, NH 03743 (LR-NH)
John Sedlacek, 2728 North 45th Avenue, Omaha, NE 68104 (JS-NE)
Woody Smith, P.O. Box 52823, Knoxville, TN 37950 (WS-TN)

TEN (and TWENTY) YEARS AFTER...

Summer has always been thus:

Sept 1983: The monthly ACE was 20 pages with a front cover that featured info on La Voz Del CID. DiaLogs was 4 2/3 pages, including 1 Nam MW (KPRC), 11 Nam SW, 1 Euro (Dublin) and 5 Clandestines. Also included was news about the Radio North Star Int'l bust.

Sept 1993: The monthly ACE was 20 pages with a front cover that featured a reversed QSL from KPMR. DiaLogs was 6 pages, including 1 Nam MW (WRMR), 30 Nam SW, 2 Euro, and 14 unID reported by 10 contributors.

RAMBLINGS

FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT – TAKE NOTE OF THE NEW MAIL AND EMAIL ADDRESSES ON THE HEADER – I'M MOVING!

Pretty darn good array of loggings this month! Thanks to all who wrote.

Well, playmates, at long, long last the awful (or so I thought – looks like people are as busy listening as ever even during the height of summer!) summer listening season is drawing to a close. October marks the beginning of the fall listening season when Mother Nature turns down the thunderstorm machine a few notches. Myself, I had to move unexpectedly (damn her black heart!) and my first chores are getting my own household up and running again! Still, it's a very ill wind that brings nothing good at all – I'm looking forward to having a broadband connection at long last. Antennas are going to be problematic (I'm now renting a two bedroom townhouse that faces some woods) but I'm sure I'll figure something out.

Rudy Elsen in California joined ACE at the beginning of the year and finally admits his error in submitting logs only to George Zeller's column! I received his first log via mail and you'll spot his loggings tagged with "RE-CA"! Good to have you on board, Rudy!

Okay, that's it for me for this month – I gotta go have that nervous breakdown I'm promising myself...

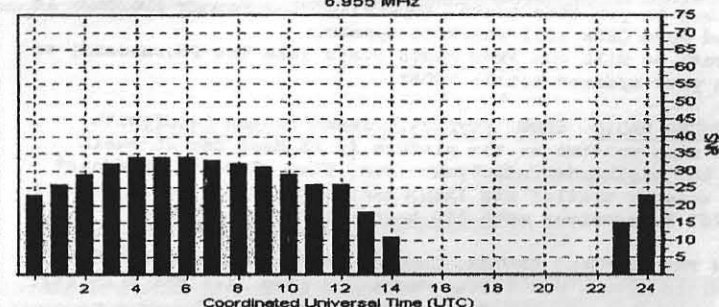
STATISTICS

No stats this month, folks – it's a real busy month for yours truly and I'm beat flat already!

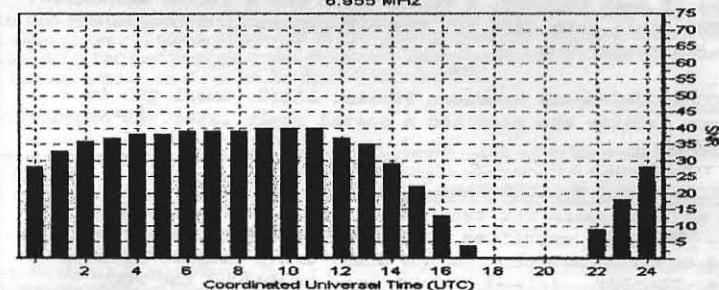
PROPAGATION

Maintaining the illustrious ACE tradition, Rudy Elsen, as a new contributor, gets the propagation tables for his area this month.

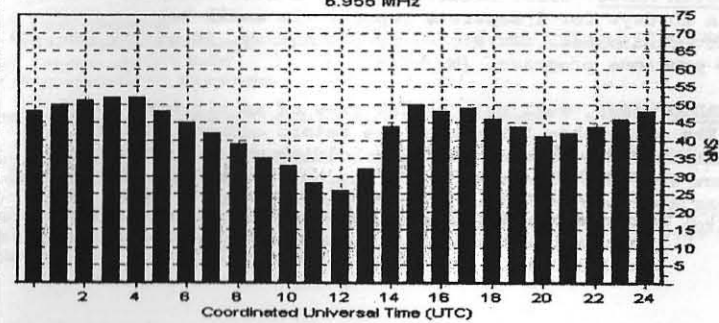
Aug. 2003 SSN: 55 Philadelphia, PA to Castro Valley, CA
6.955 MHz



Aug. 2003 SSN: 55 Kansas City, KS to Castro Valley, CA
6.955 MHz



Aug. 2003 SSN: 55 Los Angeles, CA to Castro Valley, CA
6.955 MHz



VERIFIED RESPONSE

CHRIS LOBDELL
BOX 146
STONEHAM, MA 02180
clobdell@comcast.net

NEXT COLUMN DEADLINE: September 19th

Sorry about the missing column last month, but there just was not enough material to warrant doing one. We do have reports to pass along to you this month. Hopefully, the summer slowdown is over and more QSLs will start to appear. Next month we will run Free Radio Stats [aka The Scoreboard] so send in your updated totals TODAY!

BIG THUNDER RADIO. 6950, "Typical Plains Sunset Card" with station name written on the picture in 15 days for an email report to: bigthunderradio@yahoo.com. They claim to broadcast from a tractor trailer rig [like "Ant Eater Radio" did] using a Yaesu 767 transceiver with 120 watts pep. [D'Angelo-PA]

CAPTAIN FRED'S WORDS CRUISE. Copy of The Association Of Micro-Power Broadcasters newsletter, note and play list for show #41. Came in less than 1 week for email report to ampb@california.com. [Sedlacek-NE]

IRON MAN RADIO. 6925, Full data QSL card #25 in 8 days from Belfast drop, signed by Scruffy Swab. The artwork included pictures of Sean Connery, a Voodoo Doll and a riding lawnmower. [Wood-TN]. Full data card for the ACE report in a couple of weeks. [Smith-TN]

RADIO COCHIGUAZ-South American Pirate. 11430, Email QSL in 2 days from Cachito who promised a postal reply later. [D'Angelo-PA]

THE VOICE OF THE TRAILER PARK MINISTRIES. 6955, full data logo sheets in five years for two receptions in 1998, signed by R.F. Fields, "The only certified sane radio preacher". Station claimed to be operating from the Shady Grove Trailer Park in Orlando, Florida. Claimed to have been busted by the FCC, arrested and hospitalized to have a metal plate re-installed in his head from a wound suffered in Vietnam. Hopes to return to the air this winter. No address. [Zeller-OH]

UNDERCOVER RADIO. 6925, Received 2 CDs, 2 full data, full color QSLs in 20 days for 2 separate reports via email to: undercoverradio@mail.com signed by Dr. Benway. [Wood-TN] QSL, CD of two previous programs. [Morris-]

VUDU RADIO. 6925, full data aerial view of an air base in 29 days. The cards show Elkhorn as the return address. [Zeller-OH] Full data QSL postcard of tortoise holding guitar, sheet from Rev. Bow Voodoo's broadcasting Salvation Show and certificate of listener appreciation sheet #1. All in less than 2 weeks for email to: vudull@hotmail.com [Sedlacek-NE]

WMPR. "Dance Party" sheet for November 2002 reception in about 8 months. Postmarked in Buffalo. [Arthur-NY] Same in about 9 months. [Reynolds-NH] Full data "I've Created A Monster" card for Dec 21/22, 2002 broadcast in 7 months. [Smith-TN]

There you have it. Many thanks to John T. Arthur-NY, Rich D'Angelo-PA, John Morris-?, Lee Reynolds-NH, John Sedlacek-NE, Woody Smith-TN, Joe Wood-TN, George Zeller-OH

Until next month, Happy Pirate QSLing.

Random Transmissions

by Frederick Moe
singinggrove@mcttelecom.com

One of the more elusive stations that has appeared on the airwaves in the past two years is WAIR - All Indie Radio. I managed to catch up with Robert and Ravi Yardbrown by writing to the station via the Elkhorn maildrop. Through an initial couple of letters they agreed to an email interview (though they adamantly refuse to accept reception reports via email and would not allow me to mention their email address in this article).

FM: What was the inspiration behind WAIR?

Robert: Indie Music that gets little or no exposure on commercial radio and certainly none in the shortwave realm, unless on rare occasions via John Peel on the BBC. And even that's been scaled back, thanks to the administration at BBC semi-world non-service. It just seems like pirate radio and DIY music fit together. Ravi: Listening to the Beatles & guys like Jim Rao of Orange Cake Mix.

FM: What exactly is "indie" music?

Robert: Indie is non-commercial, do-it-yourself music. It transcends genres, but we like to play indie pop and indie rock type music, some of which might be heard on the hipper freeform or college radio stations. Ravi: Ask my cousin Robert. He is very musical and knows all the most obscure bands on the planet.

FM: Who are some of the artists you have played on WAIR?

Robert: We did an indie band tribute to Phish, with different bands playing Phish tunes. We did the same with Neil Young, cool bands playing Neil songs and I don't think we actually played any of Neil doing his own songs. We've played bands like Scenic, a creation of our friend Bruce Licher from Independent Project Records. We will play any record that features Pam Berry on vocals, she's been in a dozen indie bands like The Plines, Castaway Stones, etc... and she has the voice of an angel.

FM: I can't help but notice your last name resembles the great James Brownyard of WHYP fame ...

Robert: Purely coincidental.

Ravi: WHYP rocks! James Brownyard is a radio deity. But my favorite station of all time is All India Radio.

Robert: You mean All INDIE Radio

Ravi: Oh yes cousin Robert. My apologies.

FM: What is that gorgeous interval signal music you play to start the broadcast?

Robert: It is Windy & Carl's song "Consciousness" ... though we sometimes use Low's "Transmission" just for a change of pace.

There you have it ... words of wisdom from two of the most obscure pirates broadcasting on the shortwave bands today. They also requested that I let people know they QSL 100% of all accurate reception reports. Thanks guys! Until next month ... happy DX'ing ACE readers!!!

the ASSOCIATION of CLANDESTINE radio ENTHUSIASTS

PO Box 1, Belfast, New York 14711-0001

The A*C*E is an association of individuals who find pirate, clandestine and covert communications an interesting part of their radio listening hobby. The primary existence of the club revolves around the publication of a monthly bulletin, The A*C*E. The bulletin reports on pirate, clandestine, covert and other unexplained broadcasts. Also, the readers are provided with other available material concerning motives, explanations and the theories behind these various broadcasts and broadcasters. The ACE as an organization, does not encourage, support or condone any illegal activity; we simply seek to understand the nature and reasoning behind such broadcasts. If your interests include listening to pirate radio stations, clandestine broadcasts and covert communications, The A*C*E is for you!!

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